

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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UNCLAS BERLIN 5382

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL COUNSEL: THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

REF: BERLIN 5267

DEPARTMENT PASS TO SCA/SCS AND EUR/CE

1. ON MARCH 13, DR. MANFRED HOFMANN, HEAD OF RECHTSANWALTSBUERO FUER INTERNATIONALE ZIVILRECHTSVERTRETUNGEN, CALLED ON EMBOFF AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT. HE ADVISED THAT HIS BUREAU IS CENTRALIZED IN BERLIN BUT REFERS SOME SMALLER CASES TO RELIABLE COLLEAGUES IN THE CITIES INDICATED IN REFTTEL. HIS BUREAU, WHICH IS RECOGNIZED AND LICENSED BY THE GDR JUSTICE MINISTER AS WHAT IS, IN EFFECT A SEPARATE COLLEGIUM OF ATTORNEYS ORGANIZED ON THE BASIS OF INTERNATIONAL SPECIALIZATION, DOES NOT ACCEPT CRIMINAL CASES.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF A BROAD RANGING SUBJECT ON VARIOUS TECHNICAL LEGAL AND NOTARIALS QUESTIONS, HOFMANN INDICATED THAT HE REPRESENTS THE GDR ENTITY PURSUING THE MATTER OF THE DUERER PAINTINGS IN AMERICAN COURTS. EMBASSY IS CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF AUTHENTICATING THE SIGNATURE OF GDR OFFICIALS ON SOME DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THAT CASE.COOPER

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